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Community *notes*

Celebrate the Arts at the Lakefront

As you may know, this weekend is full of activities for Columbia Festival of the Arts' Summer Festival, **Cross Currents**.

CFA's summer festival features performances by [The Blind Boys of Alabama](#), [Hot Club San Francisco](#), [The Best of Second City](#), [Butcher Holler Here We Come](#), [Pilobolus](#), [Stoop Storytelling](#) and [Comic Max Silvestri](#). The festival presents the popular [Sprout Films 2015](#) and [Sundance Films 2015](#) shorts as well.

The free opening weekend (June 12 – 14) has activities for the whole family. Don't forget the many opportunities to experience the visual arts as well. Check out the [website](#) for all the details.

During Lakefest, Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts' Young Columbians will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a performance at the Lakefront on Sunday, June 14 at 12:00 p.m. Please come to enjoy a wonderful musical performance featuring Young Columbians past and present. The event is free and open to the public.



We're 48 and Counting!

Columbia Association invites the community to celebrate Columbia's 48th birthday on Friday, June 12 at 6:15 p.m. Meet under the People Tree for cupcakes, the traditional happy birthday song and lots of fun!

Greeting

I love Lakefest! This year's events offer something for everyone. If you see me at Columbia's Lakefront (I'm working the ticket booth for the Columbia Festival of the Arts), be sure to say "Hello".

Smaykay

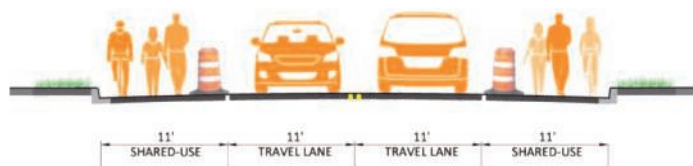
Open Streets Event

"Open Streets Howard County" takes place this Saturday, June 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Little Patuxent Parkway Loop and at Swansfield Elementary School. Experience the possibilities of roads with bike lanes, bio-swales/planters and pedestrian-friendly features. During the demonstration, enjoy fun activities in and around the LPP loop.

The Hickory Ridge Community Association shared the following information:

Little Patuxent Parkway's four lanes will be reduced to two vehicle travel lanes during this event. The change in traffic pattern will force cars to move more slowly. However, no part of the road will be closed during the event. Event marshals and police officers will be placed at intersections around the LPP loop to ensure that cars are able to move in and out of side streets efficiently.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Recycle Air Conditioners & Dehumidifiers

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) will have a recycling drop-off location in Columbia this Saturday, June 13 for working room air conditioners and dehumidifiers. For each eligible appliance a BGE residential customer drops off for recycling, they will receive \$25 from the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program[®], up to two room air conditioning units and/or two dehumidifiers.

The event takes place 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Columbia Athletic Club, located at 5435 Beaverkill Road in the Village of Harper's Choice. The event will be held rain or shine, and BGE representatives will be on hand to unload the eligible appliances from customers' vehicles.

Units must be in working condition to be eligible. Customers will receive a check for \$25 in the mail approximately four weeks after the event. More information is available at BGESmartEnergy.com/RecycleMyAC or by calling 866.898.1901.

The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program also offers a \$50 reward for recycling old working refrigerators and freezers. To participate, customers can contact BGE to schedule a pickup, and BGE will haul away their old refrigerators and freezers at no additional cost. Each household is limited to recycling two refrigerators or freezers through this program. Appliances must be in working (cooling) condition and measure 10 to 30 cubic feet, which is the standard size for most refrigerators and freezers. Room air conditioning units and dehumidifiers also may be recycled through this program, but only if picked up at the same time as an eligible refrigerator or freezer. Appointments are required and can be scheduled at BGERecycleMyOldFridge.com or by calling 866.898.1901.

BGE offers energy-saving solutions for renters, homeowners, large and small business customers, nonprofits and institutional customers at its website, BGESmartEnergy.com.

Learn to be a Weed Warrior

This upcoming Sunday, June 14th, the MPEA Weed Warrior Program is collaborating with the Columbia Association and the Maryland Agricultural Extension to provide a training that would certify one to work independently and lead friends to remove invasive plants from approved spaces at the MPEA or on Columbia Association property. The Weed Warrior Certified Leader Training program will occur from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Claret Hall, 6020 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville. This class will be a great way to learn more about how to identify invasive plants, the threat they pose to our local ecosystems, and how to remove them from our wild spaces and yards.

To register, please visit the Volunteer Center for Howard County's [webpage](#).

Meetings on Watershed Assessment Study

Howard County's Department of Public Works will host four public meetings to discuss details of an upcoming assessment of the county's Middle Patuxent River and Little Patuxent River watersheds.

The purpose of the assessment is to measure the current environmental conditions and identify opportunities for restoration projects that should be included in future capital budgets. Restoration projects being considered include: stream restoration; adding water quality treatment to existing stormwater management ponds; constructing new stormwater management facilities; reforestation and stabilizing existing storm drain pipe outfalls. These projects will help improve water quality in streams and rivers located in Howard County, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.

With both watersheds encompassing such a large area, the assessment has been split up into four study areas: the Northern Little Patuxent; Southern Little Patuxent; Northern Middle Patuxent and Southern Middle Patuxent. A map depicting the four study areas is available on the county's [website](#). To reflect these study areas, the department will hold a public meeting in each area:

Southern Middle Patuxent Watershed

Wednesday, June 17, Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Auditorium, Columbia, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Northern Little Patuxent Watershed

Monday, June 22, Dunloggin Middle School, 9129 Northfield Road, Cafeteria, Ellicott City, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Southern Little Patuxent Watershed

Wednesday, June 24, Hammond High School, 8800 Guilford Road, Cafeteria, Columbia, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Northern Middle Patuxent Watershed

Tuesday, June 30, Folly Quarter Middle School, 13500 Triadelphia Road, Cafeteria, Ellicott City, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

County representatives will share with attendees the findings of field studies, describe the next steps in the assessment study, review possible restoration techniques and discuss the status of the countywide plan to meet Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load goals.

An interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available if requested seven working days prior to the meeting. Please call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 (voice) or use Relay at 7-1-1, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

An RSVP is requested for those planning to attend a meeting. To RSVP or for questions or more information, contact Kelly Hargadin, Stormwater Management Division at khargadin@howardcountymd.gov.

News and Event Reminders

Vivian Bailey Day

Wilde Lake Community Association invites the community to a reception to honor Mrs. Vivian Bailey for her outstanding contributions to the community on Monday, June 22, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at Slayton House. Registration is encouraged but not required; please click [here](#) to register.

Share Your Ideas with Howard County Police

Howard County Police invites the public to attend its Community Policing Forum on Wednesday, June 17 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at Wilde Lake High School (5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia). Hosted by the Howard County Police Citizens' Advisory Council, participants will be asked their thoughts on topics such as Police Technology, Officer Training, Community Outreach Programs and Neighborhood Police Satellite Offices.

Upcoming Capital Project on Trotter Road

Howard County's Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering begins its work on the stream bank stabilization project next **Tuesday, June 16** with the requirement to remove several trees along Trotter Road. Flaggers will direct traffic and the Department expects the work to be completed in one day.

This is the first step in constructing Capital Project D-1163, Trotter Road Stream Bank Stabilization. Trotter Road will be closed and a detour is planned beginning **June 22, 2015**. The closure is expected to last until the end of July 2015.

The contractor for the project will set up variable message signs two weeks prior to beginning work in the area of the closure to inform local traffic of the change. The Howard County Public Information Office will also submit a press release pertaining to the closure & detour at about that time.

For questions about this project or the closure, please contact the Bureau of Engineering at 410-313-2414.

ARTreach

The Howard County Arts Council invites the community to ARTreach, a free, outdoor family-friendly arts festival at the Long Reach Village Center on Saturday, June 20, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To learn more, visit www.artreachhoco.org, and follow ARTreach on [Facebook](#) and Twitter: @ARTreachHoCo.

A New App for Access to Your Water/Sewer Bill

Howard County Government today unveiled the County's newest mobile and web-based application, "Howard County Utiliti," which connects county water and sewer customers with their accounts virtually. The app provides users secure access, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to water and sewer account information, as well as the option to pay bills online without incurring a convenience fee.

The "Howard County Utiliti" app can be downloaded for free from the Apple Store, Google Play and the Windows Phone Store. An online version of the customer portal can be found at <https://utiliti.howardcountymd.gov>.

Creating an account takes only a few minutes and provides county water and sewer customers the ability to view their consumption, billing and payment history, as well as meter reading history. Customers can also enroll in the county's Direct Debit program, as well as sign up for or donate to the new "H₂O Help to Others" program. "H₂O Help to Others" began this past March and connects county residents who need help in paying water and sewer bills with residents who want to help. The program is funded by residential customers who may voluntarily round up their bills to the nearest dollar.

Free English Classes

City of Hope Church will offer free English classes for speakers of other languages on Wednesdays starting June 24 through August 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Classes will cover conversational English for beginner, intermediate and advanced English speakers.

Students may enroll any Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. throughout the eight-week program. Classes will take place at City of Hope Church in the lower level of the Stonehouse Community Center in the Long Reach Village Center at 8775 Cloudleap Court in Columbia.

To learn more, contact Stephanie Aldrich at mcneillsj1@gmail.com.



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